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President: Mr. Akram. . . . . (Pakistan)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Panel with the Chairmen of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Population and Development, on the 10-year reviews contribution to the 2005 World Summit

1. **Mr. Civili** (Assistant Secretary-General, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) welcomed the Commission Chairmen, noting that lessons learned from the 10-year reviews would be a valuable contribution to the 2005 World Summit and would constitute an integral part of the Council's approach to implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, in a way that reflected the wider development agenda.

2. **Ms. Hernández** (Chairperson, Commission on the Status of Women) said that at its forty-ninth session the Commission had focused on implementation of the Beijing Programme of Action at the national level. There had also been a round-table meeting which had focused on innovation in the field of gender equality, identified new challenges and discussed enhancement of the institutional role in furthering gender equality. There were obvious synergies between the Commission and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). In a panel on complementarity, the Commission had adopted a resolution confirming the Beijing Programme of Action and emphasizing the need to achieve all development goals. The Council should focus on efforts to make gender equality a central component of the September summit and on maintaining the impetus that had been created. International peace and security were not possible without development, and development was not possible without women.

3. **Mr. Quiroga** (Chairman, Commission for Social Development) said that the main finding to emerge from the Commission's panel discussions, high-level round tables and general debate was that the broad concept of social development had gradually become less comprehensive in global policymaking. In an effort to counter that trend, the Commission had sought to highlight the broader social development picture first portrayed at the Copenhagen Summit of 1995. For example, while poverty remained central in development policy and discourse, other core issues such as unemployment and social integration now seemed to have been disconnected from economic and social policymaking. Injection of those vital missing links into the broader development picture was necessary in order to build more inclusive, just and stable societies. There was also wide recognition of the need to better address the challenges and opportunities of globalization.

4. On the question of servicing the external debt of poor countries and the need to meet and strengthen pledges of official development assistance (ODA), he saluted the priority accorded by the Monterrey Consensus to mobilizing resources for development. He also welcomed the recent initiative of the Group of Eight to cancel the debt of some of the world's poorest countries adding, however, that unless it was accompanied by an integrated strategy to mobilize new resources, it would be insufficient to help countries escape the trap of hunger, disease and economic stagnation.

5. The Commission had also called attention to the changing dynamics of a global labour market and the lack of an international strategy on employment and migration. A number of countries had emphasized the need to ensure that the rights and social dimension of migrants were taken into account. Moreover, the poor, particularly women, older persons, youth, indigenous peoples and people with disabilities must be viewed not as passive recipients of aid but as active players capable of improving their economic status within institutional and legal environments. Governments had also underlined the need for the United Nations to continue regional and subregional initiatives on social and economic development. In face of the growing concern about so-called jobless growth and the admitted connection between the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and security, development and respect for human rights, the creation of productive and sustainable sources of employment must be given priority.

6. Much remained to be done if the goals of the Social Summit and those of the Millennium Declaration were to be realized. If the people-centred development envisaged at Copenhagen was to be far-reaching and inclusive, there must be better management of the social dimensions and consequences of globalization; a renewed conception of the relationship between the public and private spheres; and an effective role by the State in the formulation and implementation of social policies.

7. **Mr. Grey-Johnson** (Chairman, Commission on Population and Development) said it was now widely recognized that population was at the very root of the development process. The components of population change — births, deaths and migration — encompassed the most basic and intimate concerns of human life. For whole societies, those basic events were the determinants of population increase or decrease, shaping the age structure of populations and the geographic patterns of human settlements. One of the achievements of the Programme of Action that emerged from the 1999 review of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) was that it framed population issues in a way that made them immediately recognizable as crucial for human development.

8. Although much progress had been made in implementation of the Programme of Action, that progress had been very uneven. For example, while global population had decreased, and 100 countries had met the goal of reaching a life expectancy at birth greater than 70 years, the LDCs were still experiencing very high population growth and 36 countries, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa, still had life expectancies of less than 50 years. Millions still lacked access to the means of achieving reproductive health, and the risk of maternal mortality remained unacceptably high in many countries.

9. Increased levels of international migration, while generally beneficial to the countries receiving migrants, were found to entail loss of human resources for many countries of origin and to give rise to political, economic and social tensions in a number of countries of destination. A major area in which the Conference goals clearly had not been met was in mobilizing financial resources to implement the Programme of Action. There was deep preoccupation at the shortfall of resources and donor countries had been urged to fulfil their commitments with regard to population assistance.

10. **Sir Emyr Jones Parry** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said the enormous reaffirmation of the outcomes and follow-up of the Beijing, Copenhagen and Cairo Conferences must send a clear signal of the international community's determination to pursue their full implementation. Earlier that year, European Union ministers had reaffirmed their strong support for full and effective implementation of the objectives of those conferences. Continued implementation by all Member States was essential to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. The Council should play a central role in the follow-up and implementation of the major United Nations summits and conferences in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and in particular the achievement of the Millennium Goals. That contribution — as policy guidance to the United Nations system as a whole on those issues — was quite basic, both in providing an institutional framework and for an integrated analysis and mainstreaming.

11. The European Union was committed to a successful and ambitious outcome to the September summit. As the Commission Chairs had pointed out, it was important now to move on to implementation. The question, as the September summit unfolded, was how to ensure that the political support reinvigorated by the tenth-anniversary celebrations be maintained. He wondered how that momentum could be integrated into the process leading up to the Millennium review summit and, in particular, how the panel felt the existing document on the table could be strengthened to take into account what had been discussed in the Council. Another question the panel should address — after the summit — was the need to find the most efficient way of ensuring that the functional commissions contributed to the evaluation and monitoring of progress, country by country, in the implementation of the Millennium Goals.

12. **Ms. Eliasz** (Inter-Rights) said that persons with disabilities were among the largest minorities in the world and were the poorest of the poor; steps should be taken to ensure that they enjoyed equal rights and opportunities. The Vienna Declaration stated that human rights were universal; they therefore included the rights of persons with disabilities. The Copenhagen Declaration had confirmed that persons with disabilities were, indeed, the world's largest minority and that they were often forced into poverty and unemployment. It required that certain actions be taken to promote policies to safeguard the rights of and equal opportunities for such persons. Yet all too often such people simply became invisible. She wished to ensure that her concerns were reflected in the summit outcome document.

13. **Ms. Maille** (Canada), reiterating her Government's commitment to implementing the documents adopted in Copenhagen and Cairo and the

Beijing Platform for Action and associating her delegation with the questions raised by the European Union, wondered how the political momentum raised by the review could be used to enable the commissions to play a catalytic role and work with other functional commissions in order to integrate the elements promoted in each functional commission and in agreed documents into their future commitments.

14. **Mr. Araníbar Quiroga** (Chairman, Commission for Social Development), responding to the comments made by the representative of the United Kingdom, said that there were very positive signs that the international community's expectations vis-à-vis the September 2005 summit would be met. A key factor in achieving the Millennium Development Goals would be the ability of Governments, public and private institutions and the United Nations system to create and maintain productive employment. He agreed with the representative of Canada that implementation of the Goals created new challenges and new possibilities for coordination between the various functional commissions. In his view, one parallel effect of the impetus created by their implementation would be better coordination between the functional commissions.

15. **Ms. Gallardo Hernández** (Chairperson, Commission on the Status of Women) said that she had been in contact with the presidents of both the General Assembly and the Council to ensure that the gender perspective would be an integral part of the high-level summit in September 2005. It was impossible to conceive of a declaration that did not include such a perspective; what was interesting here, however, was the profound conviction that, without the inclusion of women, it would be very difficult to improve the situation concerning peace, development and human rights in many countries. She had taken note of the point made by the representative of Inter-Rights and would make every effort to ensure that the issue of women with disabilities was included in the September 2005 summit.

16. Responding to the representative of Canada, she said that closer cooperation between the various functional commissions was very important, particularly where censuses were concerned, as a lack of appropriate census mechanisms in some countries often led to ignorance about women's issues. Responding to the concerns raised by the representative of the United Kingdom, she said that the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS was alarming and had a huge social and humanitarian impact on countries. She therefore reiterated her commitment to focus on specific actions to improve the alarming situation of women in many countries. Lastly, she called on the Council to continue its current dialogue, as its message to the September 2005 summit would resonate more loudly if it reflected a majority view on how decisions relating to gender perspective mainstreaming should be implemented on the ground.

17. **Mr. Grey-Johnson** (Chairman, Commission on Population and Development) agreed that tremendous political will had emerged over the years. It was the Council's responsibility to maintain and nurture that will; high-level events were an important part of that process. After the September 2005 summit, it would be necessary to identify ways to strengthen monitoring capacities, engage partners and hold them to their commitments. He agreed that persons with disabilities were an important minority group, which was emerging as a result of ongoing conflicts and the re-emergence of diseases such as polio. His Commission was well aware of the need to give special attention to the needs of that group and hoped that other commissions would do the same. In that regard, advocacy should be improved in order to respond to the needs identified.

18. Regarding consultation, it was important to ensure that agreements, whatever their nature, were reflected in the parts of the international system responsible for statistics and indicators. The Statistical Commission was already working on that area; as for implementation of the Goals, many instruments had been developed which would respond to the concerns raised by the representative of Canada. He agreed that the current review provided an opportunity to work together to advance the objectives of each commission and of the international system as a whole.

19. **Mr. Civili** (Assistant Secretary-General, Department of Social and Economic Affairs), referring to the question raised by the representative of Canada, reiterated his previous point that integrating the work of the functional commissions was the responsibility first and foremost of the Department of Social and Economic Affairs, as each commission was supported by a distinct division within his Department. It was therefore his Department's responsibility to ensure that commissions were properly supported when preparing and implementing their work so as to achieve maximum mutual reinforcement not in a vacuum, but,

as stressed by the representative of the United Kingdom, with a view to ensuring implementation.

Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities (*continued*) (E/2005/33 (suppl. 13), E/2005/51 (chap. I), E/2005/56, E/2005/NGO/1-28, E/2005/CRP.4 and E/2005/CRP.6)

20. **Mr. Martirosyan** (Armenia) said that development issues should be highlighted at the September 2005 summit. Though progress in achieving them had thus far been slow and uneven, the Millennium Goals could still be achieved by the target date if there was sufficient political will and a spirit of shared responsibility and partnership between all actors.

21. Citing financing for development as a key issue, he commended those countries that had exceeded the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as official development assistance (ODA) to developing countries and welcomed both the European Union's recent initiative to establish a timetable for meeting that target by 2015 and the Group of Eight (G8) proposal to cancel the debt of the most heavily indebted poor countries. Given the role of trade in promoting economic growth, his Government supported completion of the Doha round and, in addition to duty- and quota-free access for the least developed countries, called for strategies to enhance the competitiveness and diversification of exports from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

22. It was also necessary to introduce a mechanism for technology transfers to developing countries and countries in transition. Stressing the special needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, his delegation also called for implementation of the commitments made in Brussels, Almaty and Mauritius and strongly advocated the immediate elimination of unilateral coercive measures as they hampered the development of individual countries and the entire region.

23. Recalling that there was no substitute for strong national demand-driven development policies accompanied by democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights, institution building, good governance and anti-corruption measures, he said that aid had a greater impact on growth if targeted at countries with sound policies and institutions. Armenia's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper was based on a comprehensive approach to human poverty, envisaging a macroeconomic framework, institutional reforms and social protection systems and addressing linkages with the Goals. The Government had also adopted a policy of developing a knowledge-based economy, and national action plans in various key areas. Armenia enjoyed almost universal literacy and had made progress in reducing maternal and infant mortality rates. Lastly, regional cooperation was not only indispensable for solving many problems in the modern world, but also useful in building confidence in situations of unresolved conflict, while sharing best practice and experience could help in designing national programmes.

24. **Mr. Meyer** (Brazil) said that his Government recognized that ODA remained the most powerful instrument to assist developing countries and fully supported the launching of an International Finance Facility (IFF) for the immediate front-loading of ODA commitments, in particular the pilot IFF for immunization. Given the need for innovative sources of finance, the Technical Group on Innovative Financing Mechanisms — of which Brazil was a member — had decided, with a view to the September 2005 summit, to focus on a pilot project comprising a contribution on airline tickets to finance the fight against HIV/AIDS and other pandemics and on a resolution to facilitate and reduce the costs of remittances. Renewed political will was required to complete the Doha round no later than 2006 and achieve a multilateral trade system truly responsive to development concerns. Brazil had recently approved decisions aimed at alleviating the debt of a number of highly indebted poor countries (HIPCs) and looked forward to discussing additional measures to ensure that the debt owed by developing countries did not undermine their efforts to achieve the Goals.

25. Recalling the legacy of Johannesburg, he said that the September 2005 summit should call for action aimed at reconciling environmental protection with economic and social development by, inter alia, building the capacity of developing countries, improving their access to technology and finance, enhancing market access and the value of their

products, and ensuring fair remuneration for the benefits derived from natural resources and traditional knowledge. Brazil welcomed the emphasis given to the special needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States through implementation of the Brussels, Almaty and Barbados programmes of action, and considered that international multilateral institutions should provide additional financial assistance to enable South-South cooperation to play an enhanced role in achieving the Goals.

26. The outcome of the September summit must also adequately integrate the outcomes of other conferences in the economic and social fields and take account of the urgent need for progress on promoting human rights as a basis for development and security, promoting gender equality, integrating the goal of universal access to reproductive health services into strategies for attaining the Goals, promoting productive employment and decent work, condemning forced and child labour, promoting universal primary education by 2015 and providing adequate resources for a comprehensive approach to HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, including access to low-cost and effective drugs. Brazil was committed to enhancing civil society's role in achieving the development goals; the informal hearings held in preparation for the September summit were a welcome development in that regard and should be repeated every year prior to the General Assembly. Lastly, Brazil was very much in favour of strengthening the Council and looked forward to any decisions that would enable it to play a more meaningful role regarding cooperation, coordination and monitoring of social and economic developments.

27. **Mr. Chowdhury** (Bangladesh) said that Bangladesh had made considerable progress on lowering population growth, fostering gender justice and women's empowerment, maintaining macroeconomic stability, attaining food self-sufficiency, developing an effective disaster management capacity and promoting non-governmental organizations as a supportive delivery mechanism. His country's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper was based on the fundamental principles of promoting employment-generating economic growth and investing in such sectors as education, health and other social safety-net programmes. Poverty reduction had also been made the overarching goal of his Government, with the result that the national poverty headcount ratio had fallen by 9 percentage points between 1991 and 2000.

28. However, much remained to be done. Studies indicated that Bangladesh required external support to the tune of $6.3 billion annually between 2005 and 2015 if it was to meet the Millennium Goals. In order to create an enabling international environment, there was a need, inter alia, to ensure good governance, deliver on the ODA commitments undertaken in Monterrey, provide incentives for foreign direct investment in developing countries and enhance labour mobility from developing to developed countries. Urgent steps must also be taken to deliver 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of developed country GNP to the least developed countries as ODA, provide duty- and quota-free access to the products of such countries and cancel all their official debt.

29. Finally, he said that it was necessary to bring development to centre stage and to strengthen the integrated and coordinated follow-up of major United Nations summits and conferences. The United Nations could serve as a conduit of best development practices, with the Council instilling a peer review mechanism to assess progress made and identify impediments to achieving targets.

30. **Mr. Mantovani** (Italy) said that Italy was committed to reaching the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP as ODA by 2015 and had signed on to the additional commitment of achieving 0.51 per cent of GNP as ODA by 2010. At the bilateral level, Italy had cancelled all of the debt owed by HIPCs and demanded no further payment after the decision point. Having supported the 2004 initiative against hunger and poverty promoted by the Technical Group on Innovative Financing Mechanisms, Italy supported the adoption of voluntary mechanisms and the proposal to establish an International Finance Facility (IFF); the feasibility of the latter should be tested through a pilot IFF for immunization. The focus on resources should not, however, alter the founding principle of the Monterrey compact, i.e. a true partnership between developed and developing countries.

31. His Government welcomed the fact that the Council had dedicated its 2003 high-level segment to rural development, and the decision to review implementation of the 2003 Ministerial Declaration during the current session. Italy had channelled more

than 40 per cent of its development cooperation resources to sub-Saharan Africa through various United Nations agencies and, more recently, through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Italy's health-care strategy was systemic rather than disease-oriented. Italy believed that the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria presented a unique opportunity to increase the responsibilities of local authorities, strengthen prevention, improve health-care systems and foster access to new therapies and medicines. Coordination and monitoring of the Fund should be enhanced. Italy attached specific importance to vaccine research and believed that advance purchase commitments (APCs) would provide powerful incentives for researching, developing and producing vaccines.

32. His Government also attached high priority to primary education and environmental issues and would support more stringent international governance for the environment and participate in an international environment agency. Recalling that scientific research and technology transfer were crucial to development, he said that initiatives were needed to make scientific networking and technology transfer a reality. In that regard, Italy could offer the experience of its international centre of excellence in Trieste, which provided high-level training for thousands of researchers and technicians from developing countries each year.

33. Lastly, referring to the broad consensus regarding Council reform, he said that Italy supported the proposals contained in the non-paper put forward by the President and wished to stress the need to build on the progress made during the spring 2005 meetings with the Bretton Woods institutions, World Trade Organization (WTO) and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) by developing a common framework for discussion. Implementation of the proposals contained in the draft outcome document of the September 2005 summit would also lend renewed prominence to the Council. The Council's ability to make a difference could ultimately be measured by its capacity to exercise its coordinating role both within the United Nations system and with other major stakeholders.

34. **Mr. Widhya** (Cambodia) said his country had a rectangular strategy for growth, employment, equity and efficiency focused on good governance Priority would be given to education, public health and physical infrastructure. Despite years of steady economic growth, poverty had fallen only slightly from 39 per cent to 36 per cent between 1994 and 1999. If past trends continued, it would decline to 28 per cent by 2015.

35. His Government believed in genuine partnership between developing and developed countries. The least developed countries clearly needed increased assistance from developed countries to overcome poverty. To that end, he joined other speakers in calling on the developed countries to attain the targets of 0.7 per cent of GNP for developing countries and 0.15 per cent or 0.20 per cent of GNP for least developed countries as agreed inter alia at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

36. **Mr. Sen** (India) said the Millennium Development Goals were important indicators of progress in achieving important economic and social rights. Achieving them on time would require the application of science and technology and the addressing of systemic issues, including global economic governance. To achieve them in a sustained manner, leading to real economic transformation, would require, inter alia, fundamental reform of international financial, monetary and trade institutions and realization of the Doha development agenda.

37. If globalization was inexorable, multilateralism had to be its life-sustaining and corrective mechanism. An increasingly globalizing world reinforced the growing interdependence among nations. No one country could take on responsibility for ensuring peace and security and/or development. Reform and reinvigoration of the United Nations system to reflect those changed realities had acquired a certain urgency.

38. India believed that the role of the State should not be limited to providing a favourable regulatory framework for private sector growth. The State should also undertake substantial investment in the human development sectors and in basic physical, social and institutional infrastructures. Innovative financing was required to attain the Millennium Development Goals. A variety of proposals had been made. Trade was an important instrument of development. A major reform of agricultural trade and subsidies policies in developed countries was needed so that agriculture could become an engine of growth and poverty reduction in developing countries. It was time to bring down the barriers against trade.

39. India believed that the Economic and Social Council should promote awareness and give policy guidelines in the area of development cooperation. In particular, India supported measures that would give practical effect to the provisions of the Charter in the coordination and oversight functions of the Economic and Social Council with regard to its own functional commissions and subsidiary organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system.

40. **Mr. Benmehidi** (Observer for Algeria) noted that the trends of the last two decades had led to a strengthening of the imbalances in the distribution of global resources, and a deepening of the exclusion of a large part of populations of the South from the benefits of development. Five years ago world leaders had signed the Millennium Declaration establishing the international community's development priorities, and had pledged to bring about human development in the countries of the South by 2015.

41. While it seemed that a number of developing countries were unlikely to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the international community had the means to help them do so. His delegation welcomed the recent initiative of the European Union countries to establish a timetable to fulfil their commitment of development assistance. The decision of the G8 to cancel the multilateral debt of the poorest countries was encouraging since it created prospects for international development cooperation.

42. He noted that development problems comprised real challenges that had to be addressed urgently. A political consensus had to be built, as well as greater international solidarity so that the commitments which the international community made freely would not remain a dead letter. For its part, Algeria had already attained some of the Goals and it would attain all the Goals by 2015.

43. **Mr. Al-Habsi** (United Arab Emirates) noted that the implementation of development plans in most developing countries had been delayed due to failure to fulfil the commitments relating to financing, and to an absence of coordination and integration of requirements for the implementation of the recommendations of United Nations conferences.

44. He stressed the importance of redoubling efforts to overcome the obstacles to full implementation of those recommendations including those contained in the Monterrey Consensus. At the same time, he urged developing countries to adopt economic policies that encouraged work and productivity, and to create an environment conducive to attracting direct foreign investment and supportive of the private sector.

45. The progress made by the United Arab Emirates in achieving the Millennium Development Goals was due to coordinated and integrated implementation of the recommendations of various conferences on development. The Government had adopted a national and comprehensive development policy aimed at developing human resources, achieving justice and political stability and advancing economic development. It was also focusing, among other things, on achieving social security and protecting the rights of the child and human rights.

46. At the international level, the United Arab Emirates had entered into various bilateral, trilateral and regional agreements and had made loans and grants to developing countries, as well as direct investments in those countries. The volume of United Arab Emirates foreign aid amounted to 3.5 per cent of its national gross income in 2003. The remittances sent by foreign workers in the United Arab Emirates back to their countries was another source of development income.

47. **Mr. Zhang** Yishan (People's Republic of China) said that the Millennium Development Goals represented the common aspiration of mankind to peace, stability and a better life. All countries must share the responsibility, encourage and supervise each other and turn commitments into actions. To that end, several measures were needed.

48. Firstly, countries should include the Goals in their national development strategies and formulate poverty reduction strategies, making good use of domestic resources and increasing investment in infrastructure and education. Developing countries must carry out structural reforms, improve their policies, reinforce personnel training and gradually improve their governance. Each country must find its own development path suited to its national conditions. The international community should provide encouragement and leave them sufficient policy space.

49. Secondly, supportive action was needed from the international community. Timetables set by European Union countries to reach ODA targets and the G8 initiative to cancel the multilateral debts of 18 Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs) were important steps.

China hoped other developed countries would follow suit. China supported the search to find innovative financing to complement ODA, and looked forward to the pilot projects of the International Finance Facility which would hopefully provide experiences for wider financing arrangement.

50. Thirdly, civil society should participate in realizing the Millennium Development Goals. National governments should try to strengthen private-public partnerships and encourage civil society to play an active role in a wide spectrum of causes.

51. Fourthly, the United Nations should play a leading role in a number of spheres. A strengthened United Nations role in development should be a priority of overall reform efforts, and the Council's function in policy coordination in the economic and social fields should be strengthened. The United Nations should improve its review mechanism and institutionalize its monitoring of the implementation of the Goals.

52. **Mr. Ivanov** (Observer for Belarus) said that the recent decision by the European Union to increase the volume of ODA by 2010 was very important for realizing the Millennium Development Goals. It was even more important that the Doha Round of trade negotiations should be completed no later than 2006 and that optimal conditions for international trade should be created for developing countries and countries with transition economies. While welcoming the recent initiative of the G8 Summit to cancel the debts of some HIPC countries, his Government called on lender countries and international financial institutions to examine the more radical proposals made at by the Group of 77 and China.

53. Although the countries of Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States had no problems in implementing the Goals, the small poor countries of the region needed assistance in order to eradicate poverty, child and maternal mortality, among other things.

54. Socio-economic progress and development could not be attained without the actions of national governments at the macroeconomic level, including the mobilization of domestic financial resources. The media could play an important role in implementing the national development strategy. Finally, he said that the Council should play a greater role in coordinating and implementing the Goals.

55. **Mr. Soler** (Panama) said that, while Panama's development objectives were consistent with the internationally agreed goals, they went well beyond the Millennium Development Goals and were tailored to the country's own situation and requirements. His Government had launched a national plan to combat poverty and unemployment and integrate marginalized social groups, in the context of an open economy that was capable of generating jobs and improving income distribution. The core components of that plan were the development of human capital, improvement of public finances and modernization of the State.

56. His Government was committed to good governance; it had eliminated legislation that limited freedom of expression and made efforts to stamp out corruption and it hoped to ratify the United Nations Convention against Corruption before the September summit. It was making headway in mobilizing resources and had recently enacted an act on fiscal equity aimed at reducing public expenditure and boosting State income. Although Panama was considered a medium-income country, it was heavily indebted and had serious problems of income distribution. Overall, 40 per cent of the population lived below the poverty line; in indigenous areas, 95 per cent of residents did.

57. He applauded those countries that had committed 0.7 per cent of GDP to ODA or established timetables to do so. Middle-income countries continued to need financial and technical cooperation. A greater share of assistance should be channelled through multilateral institutions. The international community must consider new forms of debt sustainability that would allow developing countries to achieve their objectives. The Doha Round of trade negotiations must be completed no later than 2006 while bilateral and regional free trade agreements must be based on the same internationally agreed development goals. Furthermore, developing countries must have greater participation in international decision-making in the financial and monetary spheres. In view of the grave danger posed by climate change and loss of biodiversity, more stringent measures needed to be taken to guarantee the sustainability of the planet; that must be a shared responsibility.

58. **Mr. Sunaga** (Japan) said that his delegation, which placed a strong emphasis on poverty reduction through economic growth, believed that resources must be mobilized from all sources, including ODA, trade

and investment and private financial flows, in order to achieve sustainable development. It was also crucial to ensure the balanced development of both urban and rural areas. In that regard, Japan would continue its efforts towards the goal of providing ODA equivalent to 0.7 per cent of its gross national income. It would also ensure a credible and sufficient level of ODA, strive to expand the volume of ODA and double its ODA to Africa in the next three years.

59. Partnership and ownership were essential principles for development. The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) embodied that philosophy; the fourth TICAD would be held in 2008. South-South cooperation could contribute substantially to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by fostering human resources development and facilitating trade among developing countries. Japan, a staunch advocate of South-South cooperation, had announced a number of initiatives at the Asia-Africa Summit, including the creation of the Asia-Africa Young Volunteers and support for the creation of business networks between both continents.

60. Globalization had aggravated the impact of transborder threats on developing countries. In order to achieve global development goals, it was necessary to take collective action to address those threats that countries could not confront individually. Japan's approach to addressing global issues was based on the concept of human security, which stressed the protection and empowerment of individuals. Noting that HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases were serious impediments to development, he recalled the Japanese Prime Minister's recent announcement that, over the next five years, Japan would provide the sum of $5 billion under its Health and Development Initiative to help developing countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals in the area of health.

61. The environment, particularly climate change and natural disasters, required concerted action on a regional and global scale. Gender equality and the empowerment of women should be integrated into every phase of ODA implementation. A truly global approach must take into account the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and should not overlook the poor countries in the Asia-Pacific region. In that regard, the Asia-Africa Strategic Partnership needed to be implemented.

62. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposals on the reform of the Council, which needed to be transformed into an efficient body that could guide the United Nations in tackling the world's outstanding socio-economic problems. Among other things, the Council should promote coordination and coherence among development partners and set medium- and long-term agendas for the entire United Nations system. It should devote most of its attention to priority issues, avoiding duplication, and strengthen its relationship with other international bodies. It must also be more proactive in post-conflict management by collaborating closely with the proposed peacebuilding commission. If properly carried out, the reform of the Council would be a stepping stone towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and United Nations reform in general.

63. **Mr. Al-Hinai** (Observer for Oman) said that Oman's efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger had begun long before the adoption of the Millennium Declaration. Some of those efforts had helped to reduce poverty while others had been directly targeted at providing assistance to low-income groups. The illiteracy rate had fallen from 41 per cent in 1993 to 22 per cent in 2004, with enrolment ratios of 97.3 per cent and 98.1 per cent, respectively for males and females in 2003. Oman was well on its way towards achieving the target of 100 per cent enrolment in primary education before 2015.

64. Under the Basic Law of the State, the Government was bound to guarantee justice and equality for all Omanis. While significant progress had been made in the education and economic participation of women, who made up 40 per cent of the population, there was still room for improvement. The expansion of health-care services and improvement of social, economic and environmental conditions had improved health indicators. Oman had achieved the Millennium Development Goal of reducing the infant mortality rate by two thirds. Progress had been achieved in immunization programmes, while the maternal mortality ratio had declined, the number of malaria cases had fallen and HIV/AIDS cases had dropped from 6.4 per 100,000 people in 1996 to 3.9 per 100,000 people in 2004.

65. **Mr. de Haen** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)), speaking on behalf of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), said

that, while the incidence of worldwide poverty had fallen from 28 per cent in 1990 to 21 per cent in 2002, the proportion of undernourished people in developing countries had gone from 20 to 17 per cent in the 1990s; it therefore seemed unlikely that the World Food Summit goal of halving the number of hungry people by 2015 would be met.

66. The figures proved that tackling poverty would not automatically take care of hunger. Developing countries that focused exclusively on poverty would take a generation longer to make real progress in improving their people's nutrition and health. The hungry did not necessarily enjoy the fruits of increased aid and investment. Malnourished, sickly workers were rarely in high demand.

67. The situation was not hopeless, however. The fact that more than 30 countries, with a combined population of more than 2 billion, had cut the prevalence of hunger by 25 per cent in the 1990s gave cause for optimism. Much could be learned from how those countries had made such impressive strides.

68. FAO, IFAD and WFP proposed that people living in "hunger hotspots" must be served. Waiting was not an option. Each day that passed did irreparable damage to human beings and cost money and opportunities. The combined cost to developing countries of protein-energy malnutrition, low-birth-weight babies and micronutrient deficiencies came to 5 to 10 per cent of their GDP — at least $500 billion.

69. FAO, IFAD and WFP advocated a twin-track approach, combining immediate assistance for the poor and hungry with long-term development programmes. Programmes and policies must focus on where they were needed most — in rural areas and in agriculture. Meaningful progress would require that the international agricultural trading system should offer developing countries a fairer chance to earn income from their commodities. All that would cost roughly an additional $25 billion a year. Developing countries currently spent some $30 billion in dealing with the consequences of hunger and malnutrition.

70. **Mr. Cox** (Observer for the Commonwealth Secretariat) expressed concern at the situation in sub-Saharan Africa, noting that urgent action was required to prevent that region from missing all the 2015 goals. While globalization had generated enormous wealth and modern technology had transformed the lives of the rich, a third of the world's population had no access to electricity; nor did the poor have easy access to clean water and sanitation. There was now a massive groundswell of public opinion in support of pro-poor development, rooted in the yearning for social justice by decent human beings in both rich and poor countries. Improving the plight of Africa would be an important item on the G8 Gleneagles agenda. Noting the G8 commitment to support and provide 100 per cent multilateral debt relief to all heavily indebted poor countries that had reached completion point and the accompanying commitment to increase ODA, he said that hope that was not sustained by action soon died.

71. While action required industrial countries to honour their commitments to increase ODA and to fund debt forgiveness it also required developing countries to improve governance and remain committed to social and economic policies that targeted poverty reduction and promoted participation equity, including gender equity. All countries needed to work together to negotiate rules for international trade that put development at the top of the agenda.

72. The Millennium Development Goals would not be attained without more and better aid. He therefore welcomed the European Union's decision to double its ODA and the commitment by major European countries to the 0.7 per cent ODA target. However, there must be changes. Recipients should ensure that increased aid flows were accompanied by improved public financial management, accountability and transparency. Donors, for their part, should make multi-year commitments that ensured predictability, implement the Rome Declaration on Harmonization and untie their assistance to enhance its value.

73. More debt relief and more and better aid were of limited value unless the G8 and other developed countries also opened their markets to the products of poor countries. Indeed, the most effective means of combating global poverty was to increase trading opportunities. In that regard, Commonwealth Heads of Government had called for the early phasing out of all forms of export subsidies, for substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support and for significant improvements in market access. It was also important that the special problems of the economies of small States should be addressed in the Doha Round, the ACP-EU negotiations on economic partnership agreements and in the international aid architecture. Agreement on a more development-friendly international trading system would be the single most

important contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

74. **Mr. Barnes** (Observer for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies — IFRC) said that IFRC's objectives for the first part of the current millennium had found powerful convergence with those that States had accepted in the Millennium Declaration. Work was increasingly directed at providing the vital community base necessary for achieving the common aspirations described in the Millennium Declaration. However, attaining the development goals would require changing the mindset of Governments and other public institutions. Governments needed to partner effectively with their Red Cross and Red Crescent and other civil society organizations to build a culture of prevention that would sustain development and human dignity.

75. Prevention in that context meant empowering communities to build the strengths and resiliency which would facilitate the development of their human capital. Prevention also required that the impact of natural disasters should be minimized by effective programmes at the community level. Also, there must be full recognition of the part played by volunteers in achieving sustainable development and protecting human dignity. The creation of a human rights-based social fabric was a critical ingredient in the building of resilient, peaceful and prosperous communities.

76. **Ms. Ndioro-Ndiaye** (Observer for the International Organization for Migration — IOM) said that as roughly one in every 35 persons was a migrant, the considerable attention paid by many actors in the international development field to international migration was hardly surprising. Current estimates indicated that there were some 185 to 192 million migrants in the world, nearly 50 per cent of whom were women. The current policy debate within the IOM Council had opened new possibilities for the development of common approaches to migration management based on cooperation among States. It was with a sense of urgency that IOM was preparing for its high-level dialogue on international migration and development which would take place in 2006.

77. IOM had initiated an updated migration and development strategy which offered an important added value for host and receiving countries alike and it stood ready to assist countries in any way possible. Migrants could contribute to the fight against poverty, not only by skills transfer, but also through remittances, investment and expenditure, and entrepreneurial activities to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Migration had not featured prominently in the original Millennium Development Goals framework despite the overwhelming evidence of such positive contributions. For example, migrants sent home more than $100 billion in remittances each year, showing a direct link between migration and poverty reduction. Regarding Goal 8, on developing a global partnership for development, the opening up of trading and financial systems had an impact on migration, especially in lowering transfer costs for remittances and establishing legal channels for the transfer of those financial flows. Moreover, partnerships between countries of origin and destination, public and private sectors, and civil society at large, including diaspora associations, could form the basis of economic growth, joint business ventures, trade and increased investment flows.

78. **Ms. Mainka** (Observer for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) said that the Goals were interconnected and could not be achieved in isolation or sequentially. The achievement of Goal 7 on environmental sustainability, for example, was essential if other Goals on poverty, water, health, and nutrition and gender equality were to be met. Loss of biodiversity and its ecosystem services could have serious consequences on the world's population, particularly on the world's poor. An estimated 75 per cent of the three billion poor lived in rural areas and depended heavily on natural resources for their survival. One billion Asians relied on fish as their primary source of protein. The global fishing industry employed some 200 million people, yet, 14 of 17 fisheries worldwide were in decline, impacting on both food security and household incomes.

79. The World Health Organization (WHO) had noted that environmental factors, such as unsafe drinking water and smoke from biomass cooking fires, caused about 25 per cent of all preventable diseases. Environmental sustainability supported and integrated multiple development goals and was a sound investment, especially for poverty reduction. One key study showed that investments of up to $36 billion in water and soil conservation would save $53 billion in agricultural losses. The study had also found that the world spent roughly $1 trillion on subsidies in the agriculture, energy and water sectors. Removing a

mere 10 per cent of the most socially and environmentally perverse subsidies would reduce environmental degradation and liberate more resources for poverty elimination than was currently being provided by global aggregate ODA. Priority should be accorded to environmental sustainability, increased ODA and integrating ecosystem services in household and national economies.

80. **Mr. Mchumo** (Common Fund for Commodities) said that dependence on a narrow range of primary products for export earnings could create poverty traps in the international economic environment. The prevailing commodity trade mechanism not only exacerbated poverty, but generated an unsustainable economic environment for growth and development that affected indebtedness, domestic capital formation and access to external private finance, as well as aid effectiveness. Commodity-dependent developing countries needed assistance in order to become more competitive and self-sustaining economies. More ODA should be allocated to infrastructure and commodity-related programmes to address supply-side constraints.

81. Volatility in world commodity prices and drops in real commodity export earnings were major causes of economic instability and lower growth rates. The foreign exchange deficit caused by such short- and medium-term price volatility seriously undermined capacity use and efficiency and reduced the capacity to invest in productive sectors. Past efforts in market intervention measures had not worked and the international community must find a permanent solution to the problem of commodity price decline and volatility.

82. Since international trade was vital to commodity-dependent countries, they should be given broader access to major developed country markets and tariff and non-tariff barriers, including subsidies, should be removed.

83. **Mr. Husain** (Observer for the Organization of the Islamic Conference — OIC) said the responsibility for formulating and implementing development policies rested with national governments working with civil society. However, concerted measures should be taken at the regional, interregional and global levels to address the external factors affecting the sustainability of national development policies and programmes. Also, national efforts should be pursued to strengthen transparency, the rule of law, constructive economic management, social services and good governance. All that required patience, understanding and increased levels of support on the part of developed-country partners.

84. The fulfilment of the Monterrey Consensus would be an important milestone in the efforts of the international community to meet the challenges. OIC was calling for further reform of the international financial structure in order to avoid destabilizing capital flows, maximize benefits and minimize risks from global capital markets. Stepped-up levels of financial and technical support would be required to maintain sustainable practices in economic and social development. There was a real possibility that poverty could be overcome. The international community must not allow that historic opportunity to be lost.

85. **Ms. Henkens** (United Nations Population Fund — UNFPA) said that achievement of the Goals went hand-in-hand with implementation of the wider development agenda of global United Nations conferences. Increased attention to population and reproductive health, the implementation of the ICPD action programme was the key to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development. Unprecedented demographic challenges demanded an urgent, stronger and more coordinated policy response to address the problems of civil conflict and population displacement, rapid urbanization, international migration, population growth in the poorest countries, HIV/AIDS and the largest youth population in human history.

86. The international community had reached a critical juncture in the countdown to the 2015 deadline. Henceforth, it would have to do business differently and boldly embrace novel ideas for fighting poverty, disease and discrimination required more coordinated and effective responses. UNFPA was committed to working with partners to achieve the Goals. In working to develop capacity and self-reliance at the national level, the Fund had evolved a strategy to improve maternal health and prevent HIV infection. UNFPA was fully committed to working with partners at all levels to turn its words into actions that had a real impact on people's lives.

87. **Mr. Levin** (International Telecommunication Union — ITU) said that the Union was pleased with the importance that the Secretary-General's report accorded to information and communication

technologies (ICTs). The first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) had been organized in Geneva in December 2003 and the second phase would take place in Tunis in September 2005. The Geneva Plan of Action recognized ICTs as tools for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and ITU had set a target to connect the world by 2015. The World Summit had also addressed issues such as infrastructure and capacity-building. One of the key elements of the Summit had been the multi-stakeholder approach. The private sector and civil society organizations had played an important role and all stakeholders had a role in building partnerships for development and bridging the digital divide. Innovative ways of financing digital development had been found and agreement had been reached on the proposal by the President of Senegal to create a digital solidarity fund with $1 billion and for all villages in the world could be connected by 2015.

88. **Ms. Kirby** (Observer for the Temple of Understanding) said that the 2004 DPI/NGO Conference had focused on the theme of partnership. Non-governmental organizations had reaffirmed their sustained involvement with the Millennium Goals over the long term, and awareness of the Goals in civil society had been greatly enhanced.

89. **Ms. Del Amor** (Observer for the Foundation for the Social Promotion of Culture) said that the Foundation had focused on economic and social development, ensuring respect for human dignity and promoting peace. The Foundation had carried out more than 135 projects in collaboration with some 30 NGOs.

90. **Ms. Malaman** (Observer for *Legião da Boa Vontade*) said that her organization had mobilized civil society to publicize the Goals, share best practices, discuss challenges and motivate partnership actions to fulfil the Goals. With 55 years of experience in humanitarian and socio-educational programmes, the Legion had developed and presented the statement of the Solidarity Society Network, a coalition formed to enable the inclusion of local communities in sustainable socio-economic development.

91. **Ms. Soanes** (Observer for the International Movement ATD Fourth World), speaking on behalf of Vivat International and the NGO Committee on Social Development, said that 2005 was a landmark year for the United Nations and every member of the world community. Those living in poverty were hoping that their children could live free of poverty. However, unless the international community was prepared to recognize that people with direct experience of extreme poverty could make a real contribution to development, the Millennium Development Goals would not be attained.

92. One example of successful partnership resulting in poverty eradication was a project in Maharashtra, India, where an organization for the empowerment of women was engaged in direct poverty eradication through self-help groups and microcredit. Women's empowerment should be placed at the top of the development agenda and women should have an equal share in all policymaking and implementation processes.

93. The NGO Forum at the Commission for Social Development had rightly emphasized the importance of keeping the spirit of Copenhagen alive by working for open partnerships between civil society and governments, working to place people and human rights at the centre of development and promoting equitable investment in social and economic development.

94. **The President** said that since efforts to produce a ministerial declaration had proved unsuccessful, he would prepare and circulate a summary of the high-level segment, reflecting the discussions that had taken place over the past three days. He noted that the Millennium Goals, together with the major outcomes of global conferences and summits, constituted a comprehensive development agenda for the international community. The challenge was not so much one of conception as of ensuring implementation of that agenda. While overall progress in achievement of the Goals had been uneven, it was clear that a new spirit of shared responsibility was emerging, as evidenced by the recent announcements of the European Union and the G8. That new spirit must imbue the September summit.

95. Finally, he said, there was a sense that the Economic and Social Council had rediscovered its role as the central body of the United Nations for the promotion of economic and social development. It was clear that the Council was the only place where all key actors — governments, international agencies, civil society and business — could come together for intense and open dialogue on the realization of the common agenda.

96. **Ms. Gordon** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 developing countries and China, noted that the high-level segment had provided for discussion of important topics. She expressed the hope that the September summit would lead to bold decisions and that progress would be made, inter alia, on financing for development, external debt and the completion of the Doha round of multilateral trade negotiations.

97. **Ms. Walpole** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union, expressed regret that it had not been possible to agree on a declaration at the close of the high-level segment, but noted the rich exchange of views that had taken place. She commended the President's team and the Secretariat for their sterling work and looked forward to receiving the President's summary.

The meeting rose at 7.10 p.m.